(b) if there is no such policy as yet, whether any policy is proposed to be evolved now?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) Within the framework of energy policy, a number of programmes like National Project on Biogas Development (NPBD), popularisation of improved chulhas and solar cookers etc. have been initiated to conserve fuelwood and improve efficiency of utilisation of agro residues and animal wastes. Energy Plantation Demonstration on wasteland has also been taken up to increase fuelwood supply to the rural population.

Construction of Super Thermal Power Plant at Talcher

3012. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) by when the construction of super thermal power plant at Talcher is likely to be commenced;

(b) what would be the estimated cost of this super thermal power project;

(c) by when this project is likely to be completed, and

(d) what would be the generation capacity of this plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (d) Construction work on the Talcher Super Thermal Power Projetc Stage-I (2x500 MW) would commence after its approval by Government. The present estimated cost of Stage-I of the project, alongwith associated transmission lines, is Rs. 1291 crores.

A 500 MW unit normality takes about five years for commissioning after placement of orders for main plant equipment.

Prices of filament yarn

3013 SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of filament yarn have been raised by Rs. 10,000 per tonne in the past few weeks and the current yarn prices are higher by 21 per cent as compared to the fair prices recommended by BICP; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) As reported by the Industry, the prices of Filament Yarn have not been raised in the past few weeks and since BICP has not submitted its report, no comparison in prices can be drawn at this stage.

Import of gas turbines

3014. SHRI HARI SINGH NALWA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that orders for Gas Turbines have been placed with M/s. Mitsubishi, Alstromand and Brown Boueri;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for placing orders on these foreign companies instead of BHEL;

(c) what is the amount of foreign exchange to be incurred on the procurement of these turbines; and

(d) whether Government have ensured that no agents were involved in the award of these contracts to the foreign companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a)